



CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA

Date: October 22, 2013

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: W. Bowman Ferguson, Deputy City Manager
From: Donald F. Greeley, Director, Department of Water Management
Subject: Presentation - Downtown Loop Waterline Replacement and Water Meter Upgrades

Executive Summary

Many of the City's existing water distribution lines in the downtown area are 100 years old. A number of the lines were replaced during the 2005 Chapel Hill Street/Main Street streetscaping project. In this project, the Department of Water Management (DWM) plans to replace all City water distribution lines within the Downtown Loop not included in the previous project. In addition to improving the water flow capacities of the water lines to meet current and future redevelopment needs, this project will also complete water meter upgrades along the affected streets.

Design plans for these replacements are currently under permitting review; construction is planned to occur in two phases. Phase I will begin around April 2014, with Phase II beginning around March 2015.

Recommendation

The department recommends that the City Council receive a presentation on the Downtown Loop Waterline Replacement and Water Meter Upgrades project.

Background

The Department of Water Management is responsible for maintaining existing water and sewer infrastructure within the downtown area of Durham. A significant portion of the water infrastructure, approximately 12,000 feet, has been in service since the early 1900's and shows signs of aging, i.e., decreased flow capacity and increased maintenance, including several line breaks. In addition to providing increased water capacity for future growth, commercial water meter boxes adjacent to the replaced lines will also be upgraded to new City standards. A number of water mains were replaced during the Chapel Hill/Main Street streetscape project in 2005 and therefore excluded from the Downtown Loop project.

The goal of the project is to replace the water lines before any additional streetscaping, resurfacing or realignment projects commence. The project's design is complete and has been submitted for permitting. It is anticipated that significant noise, traffic and pedestrian impacts are likely and the department is developing a comprehensive notification and outreach process to inform citizens about the project.

Attachment

PowerPoint Presentation
Video